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Letter dated 28 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, in its capacity as President of the Security Council during the month of December 2018, will hold an open debate on the topic "Role of States, regional bodies and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts", in connection with the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security".

I have the honour to inform you that the meeting will take place on 6 December 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Security Council Chamber. To guide a fruitful discussion, we have prepared a concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Léon H. Kacou **Adom**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: French]

Côte d'Ivoire Presidency of the Security Council in December 2018

High-level ministerial debate on the topic "The role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts"

I. Context and challenges

During the high-level presidential debate, Heads of State will address the question of crisis recovery and peace and security processes from the perspective of post-conflict economic reconstruction.

The high-level ministerial debate will focus on the earlier phases of preventing and resolving conflicts, which destabilize States and feed on and sustain fragile situations. The aim is to consider the effectiveness of seeking closer cooperation between the United Nations, States and regional and subregional organizations.

Many contemporary conflicts are internal crises, which are perpetuated or repeated in the absence of political processes to end them. Moreover, in a growing number of cases they are taking place in environments where the situation is severely exacerbated by new threats, such as asymmetric threats from non-State actors, terrorist acts, criminal trafficking, massive human rights violations or the deliberate obstruction of humanitarian relief.

Despite the efforts of recent years, responses to these situations are not sufficiently effective. The international community must be more innovative in reforming the peace architecture, as proposed by the Secretary-General. His Action for Peacekeeping initiative should lead the international community to overcome its divisions for the sake of effectiveness.

With regard to cooperation between the United Nations, States and regional and subregional organizations, the experience of Côte d'Ivoire with the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire is unanimously considered to be a successful example of State involvement in and national ownership of a crisis recovery process with the support of the international community.

The involvement of States and regional and subregional organizations and their close cooperation with the United Nations must be strengthened and built into a new peace architecture that is effective, respects human rights and takes into account the issue of financing.

A. A new peace architecture for better cooperation between the United Nations, States and regional and subregional organizations

In his statement contained in S/PRST/2016/12, the President of the Security Council underlined both the importance of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding and the critical contribution of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations to peacebuilding.

It is also important to:

- Establish, in accordance with Chapters V and VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, a new peace architecture founded on subsidiarity based on the suitability of each level of actor to design, implement or coordinate peace initiatives.
- Ensure coordination and coherence between levels of responsibility by strengthening coordination between levels of action and internal coherence within the United Nations system.

B. Effectiveness of peace operations and respect for human rights

To ensure effectiveness through compliance with management and transparency rules, it is necessary to set clear and objective standards of performance and accountability and strengthen the role of women in peacekeeping.

There is a need to ensure that peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations respect human rights and international humanitarian law. Such operations must be conducted in accordance with obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and international refugee law.

It is also necessary to respond more quickly to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, provide greater support to victims and be more effective in seeking justice.

Finally, mechanisms must be sought to better address grave or massive human rights violations and non-compliance with humanitarian law in areas of operations.

C. Financing

In the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 19 April 2017, both organizations expressed their desire to find ways to ensure predictable and sustainable financing for peace operations in Africa. The Action for Peacekeeping initiative has reaffirmed that need.

Progress must be made on this issue.

II. Questions for consideration

1. How can cooperation between the United Nations, States and regional and subregional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts be strengthened in practice? Which regional actors are likely to participate in new partnership agreements with the United Nations?
2. What concrete steps can be taken to improve the suitability of mandates, in particular those relating to the most exposed environments? Should a new framework be defined for offensive operations and, if so, what objectives, partners and resources should it include?
3. What progress should be sought with regard to the performance of peace operations, transparency and respect for human rights and humanitarian law?
4. How can financial engineering be used to generate the necessary sustainable public and private financing?